## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W

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R 071240Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9237

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: GOVT APPROVES GUIDELINES FOR AMNESTY, RESTORES TRADITIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLIES IN TWO BASQUE PROVINCES

1. THE CABINET MEETING MARCH 4 APPROVED GUIDELINES FOR THE ADOPTION OF "DISPOSITIONS AND DECISIONS THAT WILL COMPLEMENT THE VARIOUS AMNESTY MEASURES ADOPTED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE REIGN" OF KING JUAN CARLOS, IT WAS ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING THE MEETING. THE NEW DISPOSITIONS, AIMED AT "CONTINUING TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AMONG ALL SPANIARDS", ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE MARCH 11 CABINET MEETING AND TO GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE PLAN IS TO RELEASE ALL REMAINING POLITICAL PRISONERS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THOSE INVOLVED IN BLOOD CRIMES TO BE EXILED. PRESS DISCUSSION HAS NOTED, HOWEVER THAT IF THOSE IN THE LATTER CATEGORY REFUSE TO ACCEPT EXILE, THEIR FORCED EXPLUSION WOULD FACE A CONSTITUTIONAL OBSTACLE.

2. THE MARCH 4 MEETING ALSO AGREED TO PROPOSE A ROYAL DECREE RESTORING THE TRADITIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

(JUNTAS GENERALES) OF THE TWO BASQUE PROVINCES OF VIZCAYA AND GUIPUZCOA. AMCONSUL BILBAO REPORTS THAT INITIAL REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT, ANOTHER GOVT ACTION TO MEET BASQUE DEMANDS, WAS RESTRAINED, WITH PEOPLE WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE ACTUAL EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE ONCE THE ASSEMBLIES WERE ELECTED.EATON

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